

K E N T

# COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

Barming Heath, Maidstone.



THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR.

## TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT,

For 1867.

PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS,

17th January, 1868;

AND TO

THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS,

14th April, 1868.

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MAIDSTONE:

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# THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

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The Medical Officer and Superintendent submits to the Committee of Visitors the Twenty-first Annual Report for the year 1867.

Twenty-first  
Annual  
Report.

On the 1st of January 1867 there were upon the books of the Asylum the names of 758 persons of unsound mind, of whom 304 were men, and 454 women; which numbers (in compliance with a request from the office of the Commissioners in Lunacy) include one man who escaped on the 31st December, 1866.

Numbers  
Jan. 1, 1867.

During the year 1867, 345 patients were admitted, in the proportions of 161 men to 184 women; being an increase as compared with 1866 (when 93 patients of each sex were admitted) of 159, viz. 68 males, and 91 females. There were discharged 92 males and 118 females, total 210; of whom 41 men and 54 women, total 95, were recovered; 26 males and 22 females, total 48, were relieved; and the remainder, 25 men and 42 women, total 67, were discharged "not improved." One man and one woman escaped, both unimproved. The deaths numbered, males 37, females 36, total 73; and there were left in the Asylum on the 1st January, 1868, 820 patients, 336 of whom were males, and 484 females.

The mean daily population of the year was 755 in all; of the men 313, and of the women 442; and the highest and lowest numbers resident were on December 17th and March 17th respectively; on the former day there were 845 patients, 347 of them being males, and 498 females; and on the latter 719, 295 being men and 424 women. The total number of patients resident during the year 1867 was 1103, 465 of whom were men, and 638 women.

Mean daily  
population,  
&c.

**Transfers to other Asylums.** In order to relieve in part the overcrowded state of the Asylum, 105 patients have been removed to other Asylums; 34 of each sex having been sent to the Asylum for the City of London, at Stone near Dartford; and 32, 10 of whom were men and 22 women, to Fisherton House Asylum, near Salisbury. Subsequently the operation of a recent Act of Parliament caused an unexpected influx of patients at the City of London Asylum, we were therefore required to remove a portion of those sent there from this Asylum, in order to make room for the City patients. All the patients sent to Dartford were of the better class, and a proportionate augmentation of the more troublesome ones in the Kent Asylum followed as a necessary consequence. On the 1st of January 1868, the City of London Asylum still retained 87 patients belonging to the County of Kent, 59 of whom were males, and 28 females; and on the same day Fisherton House accommodated 10 males and 21 females.

**Annual Returns of Lunatics.** Upon comparing the annual returns from the Unions for Jan. 1st, 1868, as required to be made by the 64th Section of the "Lunatic Asylums Act 1853," with those of the previous year, it would appear that with respect to lunatics chargeable to the various Unions in the County of Kent, there has been an increase of 59 patients, 38 of whom are men, and 26 women—*e.g.—*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
January 1, 1868	- - - 606	- 887 -	1493
January 1, 1867	- - - 568	- 866 -	1434
	—	—	—
Apparent increase	- - 38	- 21 -	59
	—	—	—

**Per centages of Recoveries & Deaths.** The recoveries have been 37.53 per cent. on the admissions; and the year's mortality has again been very low, viz., 6.5 per cent. upon the total number under treatment, as compared, 5.95 in 1866; 7.0 in 1865; 10.40 in 1864; and 11.96 per cent. in 1863.

**Small Pox.** Towards the close of September Small Pox was unfortunately introduced into the Asylum with a female patient from the Tunbridge Union House. The eruption appeared on the seventh

day after admission. As soon as the nature of the disease became apparent, complete isolation from the Asylum was immediately effected, by her removal to one of the lodges which had been previously occupied by the male night watch; and a special nurse was engaged to attend upon her, but not however until she had communicated the disease to four of her fellow patients, as well as one of the nurses; these were in turn removed at once to the newly-purchased cottages at the back of the Asylum; and as a preventive measure, upwards of 100 patients, the population of three entire wards, were vaccinated. These efforts were happily crowned with success, and the onward course of this loathsome disease thereby arrested. All the patients attacked recovered, although the disease assumed the confluent form in three cases, which for some time were a cause of anxiety as to the ultimate result.

Some dozen cases also of continued Fever occurred during the year, including two nurses; this disease proved fatal to one female patient, and it is with much regret that I have also to notice the death from Typhus Fever of Elizabeth Albury, a valuable attendant. This nurse caught the disorder whilst in the faithful discharge of her duties. Her fellow attendants shewed their sympathy for her by defraying the entire expenses of her funeral.

With the exception of the epidemics as noted above, the General Condition of Patients. general condition of the patients, considering the overcrowded state of the Asylum and the large accumulation of chronic cases, has been throughout the year very satisfactory, and the bodily condition of the patients has been good; this is evidenced by the very low rate of mortality.

The Obituary (Table No. 7) is remarkable for the small number of deaths registered. No fatal accident or other serious casualty has occurred, and no Coroner's inquest has been deemed necessary. Of the 73 deaths which took place during the year, 10 occurred in patients between 70 and 80 years of age, and 5 women died simply of old age decay, without any apparent complications.

## General Paralysis.

Ten men were admitted suffering from General Paralysis of the Insane, and there are at present in the Asylum 16 men and 5 women afflicted with this very fatal disorder.

## Commissioners in Lunacy.

Two of the Commissioners in Lunacy visited the Asylum on the 15th and 16th of October, and reported favourably. Some of their suggestions have been carried out, and others will come into operation as soon as the New Buildings now in course of erection are completed. The favourable reports of these gentlemen are the more valuable, considering that since the year 1856 their visits have been confined to the months of October, November, and December; a period of the year when an Asylum shows to least advantage.

## Improvements.

Regulations for bathing have been placed in the bath-rooms, much to the gratification of a large number of the better class of patients. Hand-rails have been supplied to the staircases, fireplaces fixed in the day apartments, additional day attendants have been engaged, and a night attendant on each side of the additional building, and other improvements have been effected.

## Enlargement of Additional Building.

The Enlargement of the Additional Building, noticed in last year's Report, has been completed; these apartments were first occupied on November 15th, and now nearly all the beds (96) are filled. This enlargement of the Asylum is known on the books as "Contract No. 1, 1867," that it may be distinguished in future reference thereto from Contracts Nos. 2 and 3. The two latter indicating respectively the Offices, Dining Hall, &c., and the New Building for 400 patients.

## New Offices Dining Hall, &amp;c.

The New Offices, Dining Hall, &c., being the second section of the enlargement of the Asylum, were commenced on February 11th, 1867.

## Additional Land, &amp;c.

An additional 7 acres of land have been purchased, having thereon three cottages. The total breadth of land now in the occupation of the Asylum is 184a. 3r. 17p.; and we have been successful in effecting certain changes which will enable us to divert the Farleigh and Aylesford Road which passes so close

to some of the wards occupied by the worse class of patients as to be a great annoyance to the public as well as to the patients themselves; causing much excitement, and thereby increasing their malady.

The conduct of the Officers, Attendants, and Servants of the Conduct of  
Asylum, has been satisfactory.

Officers,  
Servants,  
&c.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Wm. P. KIRKMAN, M.D.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

*Barming Heath,*

*March 20th, 1868.*

TABLE No. 1.  
Shewing Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, &c., during 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, January 1st, 1867 . . . . .	304*	454	758
Admitted during 1867 . . . . .	161	184	345
Discharged ,,, . . . . .	92	118	210
Recovered . . . . .	41	54	95
Of whom { Relieved . . . . .	26	22	48
Not improved . . . . .	25	42	67
Of the relieved and not improved, there were removed to other Asylums . . . . .	46	59	105
Escaped, not improved . . . . .	1	1	2
Deaths in 1867 . . . . .	37	36	73
Remaining January 1st, 1868 . . . . .	336	484	820
Of whom deemed curable . . . . .	17	24	41
County and Borough Patients† . . . . .	7	2	9
Average daily number, 1867 . . . . .	313	442	755
Highest number during the year . . . . .	347	498	845
Lowest ,,, ,,, . . . . .	295	424	719
Nominal accommodation in the two buildings, or beds made up . . . . .	364	497	861
Proper accommodation in the two buildings . . . . .	308	448	756
Vacancies‡ . . . . .	28	13	41
Total number of patients under treatment during the year . . . . .	465	638	1103

\* Includes a male patient who escaped on 31st December, 1866.

† i.e. difference between Nominal Accommodation and No. of Patients, Jan. 1st, 1868

‡ Patients whose settlement cannot be ascertained.

TABLE No. 2.

Occupations of the 345 Patients admitted in 1867.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Agricultural Labourers . . . . .	28	..	28
" Wives . . . . .	..	8	8
" Widows . . . . .	..	2	2
" Daughters . . . . .	..	2	2
Banker's Clerk . . . . .	1	..	1
Brickmakers . . . . .	2	..	2
Blacksmith . . . . .	1	..	1
" Widows . . . . .	..	2	2
Butchers . . . . .	5	..	5
Baker . . . . .	1	..	1
Brass Finisher . . . . .	1	..	1
Bricklayers . . . . .	5	..	5
" Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
" Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Boiler-maker's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Berlin Wool Shopkeeper . . . . .	..	1	1
Carpenters . . . . .	8	..	8
" Wives . . . . .	..	2	2
" Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Cabman . . . . .	1	..	1
" Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Comedian . . . . .	1	..	1
Commercial Traveller . . . . .	1	..	1
Costermonger . . . . .	1	..	1
Clogmaker . . . . .	1	..	1
Cabinet Makers . . . . .	2	..	2
Cooper . . . . .	1	..	1
Coast Guardsman's Daughter . . . . .	..	1	1
Captain in Merchant Service, Wife of .	..	1	1
" Widow of . . . . .	..	1	1
Cook . . . . .	..	1	1
Coal Merchant's Daughter . . . . .	..	1	1
Charwomen . . . . .	..	3	3
Draper . . . . .	1	..	1
" Wife of . . . . .	..	1	1
Draughtsman . . . . .	1	..	1
Domestic Servants . . . . .	..	38	38
Dressmakers . . . . .	..	2	2
Carried forward . . . . .	62	71	133

TABLE No. 2 (continued.)  
Occupations.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Brought forward . . . . .		62	71	133
Engine Fitters . . . . .		2	..	2
,, Wives . . . . .		..	2	2
Engineer . . . . .		1	..	1
Foundryman . . . . .		1	..	1
Farmer . . . . .		1	..	1
,, Daughter of . . . . .		..	1	1
Gardeners . . . . .		3	..	3
,, Wife . . . . .		..	1	1
Garden Worker . . . . .		..	1	1
Groom . . . . .		1	..	1
Greengrocers . . . . .		2	..	2
General Dealer . . . . .		1	..	1
Gipsy . . . . .		..	1	1
Hawkers . . . . .		3	2	5
Hairdressers . . . . .		3	..	3
Housekeepers . . . . .		..	3	3
Insurance Agent . . . . .		1	..	1
Iron Moulder . . . . .		1	..	1
Labourers . . . . .		11	..	11
,, Wives . . . . .		..	23	23
,, Widows . . . . .		..	4	4
,, Daughters . . . . .		..	2	2
Laundress . . . . .		..	1	1
Lodging-house Keepers . . . . .		..	2	2
Letter Carrier's Daughter . . . . .		..	1	1
Mechanic's Wife . . . . .		..	1	1
Navvy . . . . .		1	..	1
Needlewomen . . . . .		..	13	13
Nurses . . . . .		..	2	2
Omnibus Proprietor . . . . .		1	..	1
Painters . . . . .		2	..	2
,, Wife . . . . .		..	1	1
Printers . . . . .		3	..	3
,, Wife . . . . .		..	1	1
Papermaker . . . . .		1	..	1
Policemen . . . . .		2	..	2
Policeman's Wife . . . . .		..	1	1
Carried forward . . . . .		103	134	237

TABLE No. 2, (continued).  
Occupations.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Brought forward . . . . .	103	134	237
Plasterer . . . . .	1	..	1
Porter . . . . .	1	..	1
Pawnbroker's Assistant . . . . .	1	..	1
Publicans' Wives . . . . .	..	2	2
, Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Photographic Artist's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Plumber's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Ropemaker's Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Shopman . . . . .	1	..	1
Shopwoman . . . . .	..	1	1
Sawyers . . . . .	4	..	4
, Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Stonemasons . . . . .	2	..	2
Schoolmistress . . . . .	..	1	1
Shoemakers . . . . .	3	..	3
, Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Schoolmaster's Daughter . . . . .	..	1	1
Shoebinders . . . . .	..	2	2
Soldiers . . . . .	7	..	7
, Wives . . . . .	..	5	5
, Widow . . . . .	..	1	1
Sailors . . . . .	8	..	8
, Wife . . . . .	..	1	1
Scripture Reader . . . . .	1	..	1
Shipwrights . . . . .	2	..	2
Teachers of Music . . . . .	1	2	3
Tailors . . . . .	3	..	3
, Wives . . . . .	..	2	2
Vagrants . . . . .	..	2	2
Watchmen . . . . .	2	..	2
Warehouseman . . . . .	1	..	1
Waterman . . . . .	1	..	1
, Widow of . . . . .	..	1	1
None . . . . .	19	19	38
Not known . . . . .	..	4	4
 Total . . . . .	161	184	345

TABLE No. 3.

Religious denominations of the 345 Patients admitted in 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	127	145	272
Roman Catholic	7	17	24
Presbyterian	1	..	1
Wesleyans	11	9	20
Independents	6	7	13
Baptists	6	4	10
None	3	2	5
	161	184	345

TABLE No. 4.

Degrees of Education of the 345 Patients admitted in the year  
1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well educated	12	6	18
Able to read and write	103	112	215
Able to read	14	21	35
No education	32	45	77
Total	161	184	345

TABLE No. 5.

Ascertained and supposed causes of Insanity in the 345  
Patients admitted in the year 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hereditary Predisposition (sole cause*)	19	16	35
Congenital Malformation	14	12	26
Intemperance	15	8	23
Injuries to Head	15	2	17
Domestic Affliction	4	8	12
Religious Fanaticism	2	4	6
Disappointment in Love	2	6	8
Epilepsy	16	20	36
Loss of Property	1	1	2
Uterine Hemorrhage	..	1	1
Fever	2	1	3
Masturbation	2	..	2
Overwork	3	1	4
Poverty	1	4	5
Puerperal State	..	3	3
Change of Life	..	1	1
Infidelity of Wives	2	..	2
Coups de Soliel	8	..	8
Ill Treatment by Husbands	..	2	2
Pecuniary Difficulties	..	1	1
Hyperlactation	..	3	3
Marriage with a Man who was Impotent	..	1	1
Failure in Business	3	..	3
Struck by Lightning	..	1	1
Fear of Poverty	..	2	2
Fright	..	4	4
Jealousy	1	1	2
Unknown	51	81	132
	161	184	345

Hereditary Predisposition to Insanity traced in 27 men and 29 women.

TABLE No. 6.

Social condition of the 345 Patients admitted in the year 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married - - - - - - -	74	66	140
Single - - - - - - -	71	84	155
Widowed - - - - - - -	16	34	50
	161	184	345

TABLE No. 7.

Causes of Death in those cases which terminated fatally during the year 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Apoplexy - - - - - - -	4	3	7
Epilepsy - - - - - - -	5	5	10
Erysipelas - - - - - - -	3	1	4
General Paralysis - - - - - - -	7	3	10
Exhaustion from Melancholia - - - - -	4	1	5
Exhaustion from Mania - - - - -	9	3	12
Phthisis - - - - - - -	2	3	5
Old Age Decay - - - - - - -	..	5	5
Disease of the Heart - - - - - - -	..	3	3
Rupture of a Blood Vessel into the Pleural Cavity - - - - - - -	..	1	1
Paralysis - - - - - - -	1	..	1
Diarrhoea - - - - - - -	..	2	2
Cancer of the Uterus - - - - - - -	..	1	1
Bronchitis - - - - - - -	..	3	3
Typhus Fever - - - - - - -	..	1	1
Abscess of the Brain - - - - - - -	1	1	2
Syncope, from Disease of the Heart following the operation for Strangulated Femoral Hernia - - - - -	1	..	1
	37	36	73

TABLE No. 8.

Forms of Insanity in those cases which terminated fatally during the year 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania and Melancholia ... ... ...	15	26	41
Dementia and General Paralysis ... ...	15	3	18
Epileptic Mania ... ... ...	4	7	11
Idiocy ... ... ...	3	...	3
	37	36	73

TABLE No. 9.

Age at Death, and Periods of Residence in the Asylum, of those Patients who died during the year 1867.

Number in each Decennium.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Time of Residence.			
				Under 1 Month.	Under 1 Year.	Under 10 Years.	From 10 to 31 Years.
From 70 to 80 years ...	4	6	10	1	2	5	1
," 60 to 70 " ...	5	7	12	4	4	4	...
," 50 to 60 " ...	8	4	12	...	5	4	3
," 40 to 50 " ...	11	5	16	2	8	6	1
," 30 to 40 " ...	8	7	15	1	6	8	...
," 20 to 30 " ...	1	5	6	2	1	2	1
Under 20 years ...	...	2	2	...	2	...	...
	37	36	73	10	28	29	6

TABLE No. 10.

Forms of Insanity in the 345 Patients admitted in 1867.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Acute Mania ... ... ... ...	16	12	28
Mania ... ... ... ...	77	92	169
Melancholia ... ... ... ...	8	17	25
Suicidal Melancholia ... ... ...	1	1	2
Epileptic Mania ... ... ...	9	2	11
Dementia ... ... ...	7	2	9
Dementia with General Paralysis ... ...	10	...	10
Puerperal Mania ... ... ...	...	4	4
Imbecility ... ... ... ...	21	47	68
Idiocy ... ... ... ...	12	7	19
	161	184	345

TABLE No. 11.—A Table shewing the number of Insane Pauper Patients in the County of Kent, on the 1st of January, 1868, and how disposed of, according to the Annual Returns from the Unions.

## TABLE No. 12.—DIETARY.

	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	SUPPER.
SUNDAY.....	<p>MEN. For every 8 persons { Cocoa 4 oz. Treacle 8 oz. Milk 1 pint. Water 7 pints</p> <p>Bread 6 oz. Butter 2½ oz. weekly.</p> <p>WOMEN. Cocoa as above Bread 5 oz. Butter 2½ oz. weekly.</p>	<p>MEN. Cold Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 6 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., Bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Cold Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 4 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	<p>MEN. Bread 6 oz., cheese 2 oz., (or butter 1 oz.,) beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Bread 5 oz. Tea 1 oz. Butter 3½ oz. } Weekly. Sugar 2 oz.</p>
MONDAY ...	Ditto .....	<p>MEN. Meat Pudding 12 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Meat Pudding 10 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	Ditto.
TUESDAY ...	Ditto .....	<p>MEN. Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 6 oz., vegetables (cooked) 12 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 4 oz., vegetables (cooked) 8 oz., bread 4 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	Ditto.
WEDNESDAY	Ditto .....	Meat Pudding, &c., as on Monday.	Ditto.
THURSDAY ..	Ditto .....	<p>MEN. Rice-milk 1 quart, bread 4 oz.; or Suet-pudding (with gravy) 12 oz., beer half-pint.</p> <p>WOMEN. Rice-milk 1 quart, bread 4 oz.; or Suet-pudding (with gravy) 8 oz., beer half-pint.</p>	<p>Ditto.</p> <p>Ditto.</p>
FRIDAY .....	Ditto .....	Meat, &c. as on Tuesday.	Ditto.
SATURDAY ...	Ditto .....	<p>MEN AND WOMEN. Soup with liquor from Friday's Meat and shin bone and vegetables added, bread 4 oz. or Bread 6 oz., cheese 1½ oz., beer half-pint.</p>	Ditto.

## DIETARY (continued.)

## EXTRAS ALLOWED TO WORKING PATIENTS.

MEN.—For Luncheon, Bread 4 oz., Cheese 1 oz., Beer  $\frac{3}{4}$  pint. For Dinner, Beer  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint every day; Meat 2 oz. on Meat Days, 4 oz. on Soup and Rice or Suet-pudding Days, and Meat-pudding 4 oz. on Meat-pudding Days. In the Afternoon, Beer  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint at 4 o'clock and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint at Supper.

WOMEN.—Meat 2 oz. on Thursdays.

Those employed in the Laundry have Weekly, Tea 1 oz. Sugar 2 oz. for Breakfast instead of Cocoa; and with those employed in the Kitchens have Daily, when employed, for Luncheon, Beer  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, Cold Meat 2 oz. Bread 4 oz (or Bread and Cheese). For Dinner, Beer  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint on Thursday and Saturday. In the Afternoon, Beer  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint and Bread and Cheese

MALE ATTENDANTS' DIET.—Daily, Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 10 oz., Bread 1 lb., Beer 3 pints. Weekly, Cheese 1 lb., Butter  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., Sugar  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., Tea 2 oz.

FEMALE ATTENDANTS' DIET.—Daily, Meat (cooked, and free from bone) 8 oz., Beer 2 pints. The rest, same as Male Attendants.

The Servants of the House have no stated allowance of Meat and Bread but have the same quantities of Cheese and Butter as the Attendants.

TABLE No. 13.

Of the relieved and not improved, there were removed to other Asylums,

Males 46, Females 59, Total 105.

1867.			M.	F.	T.
Jan. 1 - -	City of London Asylum, Dartford	- - -	7	16	23
Feb. 4 -	Fisherton House, Salisbury	- - -	..	1	1
,, 11 -	Ditto ditto, ditto	- - -	..	6	6
,, 20 -	Hanwell Asylum	- - -	..	1	1
March 16	City of London Asylum, Dartford	- - -	2	6	8
May 22 -	Ditto ditto, ditto	- - -	10	5	15
June 15 -	Ditto ditto, ditto	- - -	8	2	10
July 11 -	Naval Hospital, Yarmouth	- - -	1	..	1
,, 15 -	Camberwell House	- - -	1	..	1
,, 22 -	Haywards Heath, Sussex	- - -	..	1	1
Aug. 17 -	Colney Hatch	- - -	..	1	1
Nov. 6 -	City of London Asylum	- - -	7	5	12
Dec. 17 -	Fisherton House, Salisbury	- - -	10	15	25
			46	59	105